--- 1/8th Pound - "Series of 1883" - BLACK - 250/255 x 14 mm. ---

--- with the 54 mm "British American Bank Note Co. Montreal" sheet imprint ---

John McKay records that 1,634,000 copies of the "1/8th, Black, '83, Tobacco", *recess printed* by hand press, were 'delivered' under the **3rd BABN Contract** (1878-1886). On the next line McKay reports that 348,680 *lithographed* copies of "1/8th, Black, '83 Tobacco" were 'delivered' under the same Contract. I believe that the later entry is an error, and the line should read "1/8th, Black Ribbon, Tobacco" for the "Series of 1880-81" black TOBACCO strips. John McKay, at no other point in his report, records the *lithographed* 1/8th pound 1880-81 black strip.

Next, John McKay reports that 1,853,720 copies of the "1-8 lb., Black, ('83) Ribbon, Tobacco", *recess printed* by hand press, plus a further 2,124,982 copies, *recess printed* by rotary press, and 2,660,298 *lithographed* copies were 'delivered' under the **4th BABN Contract** (1886-1892). It is probable that these latter lithographed strips were 1/8th pound "Series of 1880-81" black strips sent to Ottawa for destruction in the summer of 1887.

3rd BABN Contract	October 22nd 1878	1,634,000 recess (hand press)	**000001** to 1-**634000**
4th BABN Contract	October 22nd 1886	1,853,720 recess (hand press)	1-**634001** to 3-**487720**
		2,124,982 recess (rotary press)	3-**487721** to 5-**612702**
		5,612,702	

With 5,612,702 strips printed, the control number list only provides an approximation of the relative abundance or scarcity of this item, and placing them in control numbered order is not intended to indicate when, and in what order, they were actually printed during the life of a particular Contract. The 1,000,000 control sequence repeats six times upon reaching **999999**, by reset to **000001**. It is most probable that the surviving strips are from the last printing.

Once again the *horizontal mesh* strips are about 5 mm. longer than the *vertical mesh* strips. I feel that the *horizontal mesh* wove stretches longitudinally during the recess printing process. Possibly the 255 mm. strips were printed on the *rotary press* (with the plates curved to fit - are these bent lengthwise or crosswise), and the 250 mm. strips were printed on the flat bed *hand press*.

The catalogue lists the *recess printed* Series of 1883 black 1/8th pound strips with the "Montreal" sheet imprint, as follows:

RP-448 - 1/8th pound, black, perforated 12, on horizontal mesh wove, 255 x 15 mm - with 4 mm. blue controls
RP-449 - 1/8th pound, black, *coarse roulette*, on horizontal mesh wove, 255 x 15 mm - with 4 mm. blue controls
RP-449a - 1/8th pound, black, *coarse roulette*, on vertical mesh wove, 250 x 15 mm - with 4 mm. blue controls

RP-448n - 1/8th pound, black, perforated 12, *without* control numbering

Note: the controls for many of the non-illustrated strips were taken from eBay. Thus the length designation may be erroneous.

--- 1/8th Pound - “Series of 1883” - BLACK - 3rd BABN Contract (1878-1886) ---

--- Recess printed by hand press on vertical mesh wove - 250 x 14 mm - 4 mm blue controls ---

--- RP-449a - *coarse roulette* - scanned at 67% scale ---

RP-449a CP - 1/8th pound, black, 4 mm. control **685168**, *coarse roulette* - stamped **CANCELLED** in 3 mm. Gothic letters

RP-449a - 1/8th pound, black, *coarse roulette*, with 4 mm. control **685179**

685155		RP-449a CP	1/8th pound, coarse roulette, on vertical mesh wove - suspect
685168★		RP-449a CP	1/8th pound, coarse roulette, on vertical mesh wove - suspect
685179★		RP-449a	1/8th pound, coarse roulette, on vertical mesh wove

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--- 1/8th Pound - “Series of 1883” - BLACK - 4th BABN Contract (1886-1892) ---

--- Recess printed by rotary press on horizontal mesh wove - 255 x 14 mm - 4 mm blue controls ---

--- RP-448 - 1/8th pound - perforated 12 - scanned at 67% scale ---

RP-448 - 1/8th pound, black, perforated 12, 4 mm. control number **008868**

008862		RP-448	1/8th pound, perf 12, on horizontal mesh wove	
008868★		RP-448	1/8th pound, perf 12, on horizontal mesh wove	
024846		RP-448	1/8th pound, perf 12, on horizontal mesh wove	
048190	07/86	RP-448	1/8th pound, perf 12, on horizontal mesh wove - coded **TOBACCO / 1-30**	**1 ‘86**
051757		RP-448	1/8th pound, perf 12, on horizontal mesh wove - coded **TOBACCO / 1-30**	
165865		RP-448	1/8th pound, perf 12, on horizontal mesh wove	
240450		RP-448	1/8th pound, perf 12, on horizontal mesh wove - coded **TOBACCO / 1-30**	
337759		RP-448	1/8th pound, perf 12, on horizontal mesh wove - coded **TOBACCO / 1-30**	

--- RP-449 - 1/9th pound - *coarse roulette* - scanned at 67% scale ---

RP-449 - 1/8th pound, *coarse roulette*, with 4 mm. control **732408**

044530	RP-449	1/8th pound, coarse roulette, on horizontal mesh wove, rollered **TOBACCO / 1-30**
047169	RP-449	1/8th pound, coarse roulette, on horizontal mesh wove, rollered **TOBACCO / 1-30**
053069	RP-449	1/8th pound, coarse roulette, on horizontal mesh wove, rollered **TOBACCO / 1-30**
054682	RP-449	1/8th pound, coarse roulette, on horizontal mesh wove, rollered **TOBACCO / 1-30**
076426	RP-449	1/8th pound, coarse roulette, on horizontal mesh wove, rollered **TOBACCO / 1-30**
100404	RP-449	1/8th pound, coarse roulette, on horizontal mesh wove, rollered **TOBACCO / 1-30**
125644	RP-449	1/8th pound, coarse roulette, on horizontal mesh wove, rollered **TOBACCO / 1-30**
269633	RP-449	1/8th pound, coarse roulette, on horizontal mesh wove, rollered **TOBACCO / 1-30**
318298	RP-449	1/8th pound, coarse roulette, on horizontal mesh wove, rollered **TOBACCO / 1-30**
341422	RP-449	1/8th pound, coarse roulette, on horizontal mesh wove, rollered **TOBACCO / 1-30**
342124	RP-449	1/8th pound, coarse roulette, on horizontal mesh wove, rollered **TOBACCO / 1-30**
566536	RP-449	1/8th pound, coarse roulette, on horizontal mesh wove, rollered **TOBACCO / 1-30**
570558	RP-449	1/8th pound, coarse roulette, on horizontal mesh wove, rollered **TOBACCO / 1-30**
732408★	RP-449	1/8th pound, coarse roulette, on horizontal mesh wove, rollered **TOBACCO / 1-30**
885423	RP-449	1/8th pound, coarse roulette, on horizontal mesh wove, rollered **TOBACCO / 1-30**
885429	RP-449	1/8th pound, coarse roulette, on horizontal mesh wove, rollered **TOBACCO / 1-30**
885462	RP-449	1/8th pound, coarse roulette, on horizontal mesh wove, rollered **TOBACCO / 1-30**
916472	RP-449	1/8th pound, coarse roulette, on horizontal mesh wove, rollered **TOBACCO / 1-30**

--- Recess printed by rotary press on horizontal mesh wove - with Gothic *4 mm. violet controls* ---

--- perforated 12 - 255 x 15 mm - scanned at 67% scale ---

All of the stamps (bearing 4 mm. Gothic ***purple control numbers***) seem to come from the "Series of 1883". In a similar parallel, all of the stamps (bearing the Lee Brandom 5 mm. Roman light blue controls) seem to come from 1880-81. I feel that the ***light blue controlled*** strips were prepared by BABN for an early 1880 Philatelic Exhibition, and the ***purple controlled items*** for a mid-1880 Exhibition. Possibly they could be presentation items intended for favoured philatelists. A few examples (in other denominations) can be found on *block watermarked* wove paper.

There are a couple dozen examples in the collection most of which came from the "Ferrari" collection purchased from Erling van Dam. All of the other stamps in the "Ferrari" collection pre-dated 1900.

1/8th pound, black, perforated 12, with violet 4 mm. Gothic control **127934**,
on horizontal mesh wove - 255 x 15 mm. - scanned at 67% scale

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File path is [c:\ CR - STAMPS \ RP_STAMPS \ 1883 \ Black \ 1-8 pound - 255 mm],
In MS Word 2007 for Windows 7,
Formatted for a HP CP 1525 Laser Jet,
September 23rd 2013 - JBH